

MAR 17 1998

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

#BXNFMXX  
4000029154  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 12, 1998

VOL. 122

NO. 6

## Overseas Appointments total a record 628 for 1997



journeyman  
and  
16,000

"We thank God for the record number of new missionaries," said Lloyd Atkinson, the board's associate vice president of mission personnel.

"God has gotten the attention of Southern Baptists. We see this in the heightened interest in missions in our churches and the growing missions mind-set on college and seminary campuses.

"There's a growing number of pastors, church leaders, pro-

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists set a new record in overseas missionary appointments in 1997 — for the fifth year in a row.

At least one missions leader, however, believes the denomination is seeing only a fraction of what God would do if all Southern Baptists committed themselves wholeheartedly to bringing a lost world to Christ.

The 628 new missionaries sent overseas through the International Mission Board (IMB) in 1997 included 275 long-term workers — the largest number in 10 years — and 353 two-year workers, a record in that category.

Yet that number accounts for less than .03% of the denomination's reported 16 million members.

"As the end of the millennium draws near, Southern Baptists are sensing that God is doing something unusual in the world and are asking themselves, 'Where do I fit into all this?'" Atkinson explained.

God is in fact moving in powerful ways all over the world to fulfill the Great Commission, IMB President Jerry Rankin said.

"We are living in an era of spiritual history unlike any other. At the dawn of the 21st century, souls are being saved and churches are being planted at a rate that far exceeds our wildest dreams.

"If only one of every 1,000 Southern Baptist church members was sent overseas as a missionary, the number of missionaries would almost quadruple to 16,000.

"If each church sent only five members as short-term volunteers, we'd see more than 200,000 volunteers each year," he said.

professors, and student directors for whom missions is the priority," Atkinson added.

"As these leaders teach people what the Bible says about missions being central to God's heart, more people are being obedient to God and coming forward for missionary service," he pointed out.

Prayer for missions also is playing a decisive role, Atkinson said.

"I don't know of a time when more church members, pastors, and leaders have been praying for missions and asking God to call out workers, and God is answering those prayers.

"As the end of the millennium draws near, Southern Baptists are sensing that God is doing something unusual in the world and are asking themselves, 'Where do I fit into all this?'" Atkinson explained.

God is in fact moving in powerful ways all over the world to fulfill the Great Commission, IMB President Jerry Rankin said.

"We are living in an era of spiritual history unlike any other. At the dawn of the 21st century, souls are being saved and churches are being planted at a rate that far exceeds our wildest dreams.

"If only one of every 1,000 Southern Baptist church members was sent overseas as a missionary, the number of missionaries would almost quadruple to 16,000.

"If each church sent only five members as short-term volunteers, we'd see more than 200,000 volunteers each year," he said.



ONE AMONG MANY—Southern Baptist International Mission Board journeyman Carlos Miller (left) talks with a student outside the Baptist center in Kaolack, Senegal. Miller is part of the record number of non-career missionary personnel appointed by IMB in recent years. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

Southern Baptists have not become the world's largest evangelical denomination by accident, Rankin stated.

"God has blessed us so we in turn can be a blessing to a lost world.

"Our challenge is to reorder our lifestyles, our attitudes, and our structures so God can bless all the peoples of the world through our obedience," Rankin said.

While record missionary appointments is exciting, the number of people making themselves available to God doesn't

begin to meet the needs and opportunities, Atkinson said.

"It's exciting to set new records, but I'm troubled that we end every year with so many high-priority needs left unfilled.

"The International Mission Board has a channel of service for every Southern Baptist who wants to be involved in missions. We want to help people answer the question, 'Lord, where do you want me?'

"First, they have to be willing to ask the question," Atkinson pointed out.

## Looking back

10 years ago

Describing the Southern Baptist Convention as a denomination "that is wounded, in turmoil and pain," moderate leaders issue a call for prayer and "a return to the priorities and principles that have characterized this denomination from its beginnings."

25 years ago

John P. Vandercook, native Mississippian and "Father of Southern Baptist seamen's ministries," is honored with the 1978 Language Missions Exemplary Service Award from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

50 years ago

Blue Mountain College is given two Tennessee Walking Horses trained by Walker Francis of Tupelo. W. H. Anderson of Booneville donated one horse and Vivian Windham Cunningham, also of Booneville, donated the other horse.

## WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Summer missions up

3

Laurel revival continues

5

Olympics sees ministry

5

Letters to the editor

7

## Romania trip deadline

The deadline is nearing for those who wish to go on board for the fifth annual mission trip to Romania under the sponsorship of the Romanian-American Mission (RAM) group.

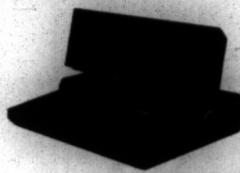
Approximately 200 volunteers from four states will leave for Romania on June 18 and return on June 30. The Mississippi team of 40-plus has a few spaces left for doctors, preachers, nurses, children's workers, and evangelism enthusiasts.

The all-inclusive cost is \$2,200. "Never in the history of the former Communist countries has there been more openness to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. This is a life-changing opportunity to go and establish churches which (Romanians) cannot afford with the present state of their economy."

"With average monthly incomes of \$50 per month, the Romanian people are struggling to overcome a past of tyranny and hopelessness. You will receive much more than you give," said organizer Wayne Ball of Brandon.

For more information on the Romania mission trip, contact Ball at (601) 825-3365 or (601) 825-7011.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H.  
Perkins Jr.

Editor

EDITOR  
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE  
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER  
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER  
Debbie Sills

EDITORS EMERITI  
Don McGregor  
Guy Henderson

**Baptist: Record** Advisory Committee:  
Bettye Coward, Clinton;  
Vicki Ford, Olive Branch;  
Larry Garner, Jackson;  
Bill Hardin, Picayune;  
Gary Richardson, West Point;  
Ernest Sadler, Pascagoula;  
Debbie Sills, secretary.

**Postmaster:** Send changes of address to **THE BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send news, communication, and address changes to **The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 (601) 968-3800

VOLUME 122 NUMBER 6  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

# The place for spiritual reconciliation

Many Mississippi supporters of the Promise Keepers (PK) ministry were caught by surprise when the Christian men's organization announced on Feb. 18 that the entire 345-member staff will be laid off at the end of this month to facilitate a planned move to an all-volunteer force.

According to the announcement, salaries and honorariums associated with the ministry will

be eliminated so that the \$60-per-person fee usually charged for attending a PK rally can be eliminated at the 19 "Open the Gates in '98" stadium events scheduled this year across the country.

Bill McCartney, PK founder and former football head coach at the University of Colorado in Boulder, told a PK clergy conference in St. Petersburg, Fla., the next day, "What I'm going to say right now is hard, but I believe it's what God has given me to say. I believe that every

church that names the name of Jesus is supposed to give Promise Keepers \$1,000." (Source: *The St. Petersburg Times*)

PK has taken the country by storm, drawing millions of men to its rallies with a call for personal reconciliation with God, family, and fellow man.

However, after last year's hugely successful "Stand in the Gap" event in Washington, D.C., it seemed the organization began a slow denouement that culminated in the Feb. 18 announcement.

Average attendance at PK rallies dropped from a high of 50,000 to around 36,000 per event last year, according to The New York Times as reported in Baptist Press.

Founder McCartney, the icon who often drove PK forward on the basis of sheer determination and vision, admitted on national television that at times he had not been the husband and father that he should have been to his own family.

We Christians know the way back from such spiritual downfall, but still that message must have been hard to accept among those who looked up to him as the embodiment of the movement. It also gave detractors an opportunity to wrongly raise questions about the entire focus of the organization.

Time will tell whether the move to an all-volunteer force will propel PK's message into the next century with the power and acceptance it received in the last decade of this century.

Baptist men shouldn't stand around waiting for the outcome. They already have a place of spiritual reconciliation — the local church.

It came to this editor's attention last year that PK activities in some Mississippi churches were at times taking precedence over the work of the churches.

PK accountability groups were meeting in the same time period that Royal Ambassadors programs were failing for lack of adult male leaders. Rallies and informal gatherings were siphoning off human resources that should have been spent on local church matters.

That's completely contrary to the stated aims of the PK organization, but it was happening.

The fact is that Southern Baptists have, under the leadership of God, spent more than 100 years fashioning a comprehensive structure that, among other things, works pretty well in meeting most of the needs para-church groups address.

There's a place for para-church groups — Southern Baptists certainly don't have all the answers — but no para-church group can be a substitute

"THIS IS A LITTLE LIKE SOME CHURCHES I KNOW — WE'RE SITTING HERE WATCHING PEOPLE PROTEST THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING THAT MATTERS!"



for the local church. Most of the groups know that; it's individuals who make poor decisions on their local church involvement.

If our local churches were not at the base of everything God is doing in our lives and our world, we could sit in front of a television once a week or go to a rally once a year and get our spiritual fill.

We know that's not the way. We can do as we please with our spare time, but let's devote ourselves anew to making time for the God-inspired work of our local churches.

## GUEST OPINION:

### Alcohol's mockery

By Paul G. Jones II, executive director  
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.



#### ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION SUNDAY

March 15, 1998

crashes, 2,600 injury crashes, and 3,800 property damage crashes involving alcohol.

Alcohol-related wrecks in our state represented over 45% of all traffic fatalities in 1994.

An estimated 10.5 million adults in the United States are alcoholics. Another 7.2 million abuse alcohol. An estimated 25% of all hospitalized persons have alcohol-related problems.

The cost to businesses and American taxpayers is staggering. The National Clearinghouse for Drug and Alcohol Information estimates that alcohol costs Americans over \$100 billion each year, or over \$400 for every man, woman, and child in the country.

Alcohol destroys lives, denies human potential, and denigrates men and women who are God's highest creation and the focus of his redeeming work in Jesus Christ.

Sunday, March 15, is Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday across the Southern Baptist Convention — a good time to again affirm our historic stand for abstinence and our concern for a society where the words "alcohol" and "family restaurants" are spoken in the same breath.

We are surely past the time of being silenced and embarrassed by the bad biblical interpretation and poor application offered by the advocates of alcohol.

Scriptures that cite water being changed into wine, and wine for the "belly," cannot be used as justification for the alcohol beverage industry to expand their points of sale and force America's families to confront the carnage and heartbreak brought on by alcohol.

The church must not forget the admonition of Proverbs 20:1 so clearly translated in the NIV: "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise."

# NOBTS announces Miss. bivocational music courses

A new cycle of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) courses for Mississippi bivocational music directors will be offered beginning March 23 at several locations around the state.

Each student who completes the eight-course music cycle earns a Church Music Certificate from NOBTS, plus eight hours credit toward an on-campus degree.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$75.

"Project 25" is a cooperative effort of NOBTS, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Baptist Sunday School Board to grant \$100 for the registration

fee and first course cost to the first 25 bivocational music directors who register.

The grants are available for both the music and education courses. Students already enrolled in the program are not eligible, and the grant is limited to one person per church.

The fourth course in the music cycle, "Reading Music; Harmony/Melody," follows the recently-completed third course, "Reading Music; Rhythm/Pitch," and will be held at:

♦ Broadmoor Church, Jackson. 7-9 p.m., beginning March 23. Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

♦ First Church, Purvis. 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning March 23. James Hayes, teacher.

♦ First Church, Booneville. 7-9 p.m., beginning March 23. LuAnne Ford, teacher.

♦ Northcrest Church, Meridian. 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning March 23.

♦ First Church, Columbus. 7-9 p.m., beginning March 24. Ed Nix, teacher.

♦ East McComb Church, McComb. 7-9 p.m., beginning March 24. Joe Elliott, teacher.

Additional classes may be organized in other locations around the state where 10-12 students are interested in enrolling.

For more information, contact coordinator Chester Vaughn, 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# THE BAPTIST RECORD

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 12, 1998

VOL. 122

NO. 6

## BSU summer missions to set new mark

The Student Work Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) have appointed a record 170 college students to serve as Baptist Student Union (BSU) summer missionaries for 1998 summer missions season.

"This represents a 57% increase over our previous high number of 111 in 1997," said Weaver McCracken, MBCB associate director of Student Work.

"We received 194 applications and appointed 174. Of that number, 170 have accepted appointments," McCracken said.

Mississippi College in Clinton and the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg provided the largest number of applicants — each sending more than 30 students, McCracken indicated.

Student summer missionaries representing 24 college campuses in Mississippi will serve from eight to ten weeks in 26 states and in eight foreign countries.

The approximate \$160,000 budget to send these volunteers to the mission field is raised each year entirely by the students of the various campus ministries.

"Many people have asked, 'Why has this happened?'" McCracken said. "There are no doubt many reasons for this total number, but I would (highly) rank a clear vision and commitment to the task by the entire organization, from the state office to the local campuses."

Mississippi Baptists have a student ministry on 32 college campuses in the state.

Most of those campuses have a Baptist Student Union program, with a local director who receives support from MBCB through the Cooperative Program and from Mississippi churches that send representatives to serve as a local board.

In 1996, there were over 11,000 students involved in Baptist campus ministry around the state, according to Jerry Merriman, MBCB student work director.

"We've been overwhelmed by the response of our students," Merriman said.

"We thought the record of 111 last year would hold for at least a few years. No doubt, God is up to something big and we're excited to be a part of it," Merriman said.

The BSUs represented and the number of summer missionaries from each school are:

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg: 31. Mississippi College, Clinton: 28. William Carey College, Hattiesburg: 14. Jones Junior College, Ellisville: 13. Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain: 10. Mississippi State, Starkville: 10.

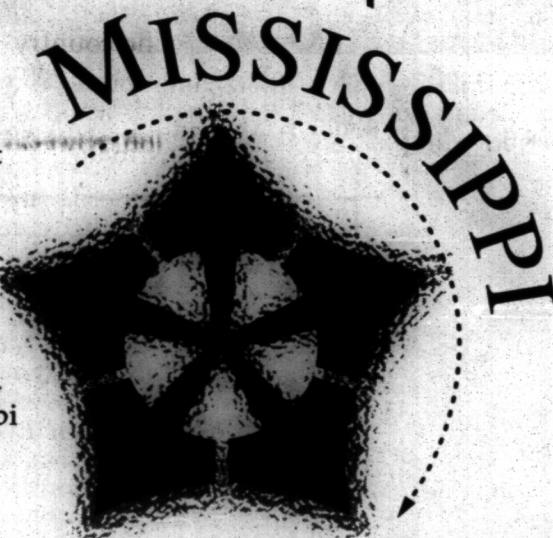
University of Mississippi, Oxford: 7. Pearl River Community College, Poplarville: 7. Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson: 6. Hinds Community College, Raymond: 6. Northeast Community College, Booneville: 6.

Gulf Coast Community College, Biloxi: 4. East Central Community College,

Decatur: 3. Northwest Community College, Senatobia: 3. Delta State University, Cleveland: 2. Mississippi Delta Community College, Moorhead: 2.

Meridian Community College, Meridian: 2. Alcorn State University, Lorman: 1. Holmes Community College, Goodman: 1. Itawamba Community College, Fulton: 1. Mississippi University for Women, Columbus: 1. Belhaven College, Jackson: 1. Southwest Community College, Summit: 1

For more information on summer missions and student work in Mississippi, contact Merriman and McCracken at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Mississippi (800) 748-1651.



## BAPTIST STUDENT UNION

### State's Feb. CP at \$2.1M

Mississippi Baptists gave \$2.1 million through the Cooperative Program (CP) in February, keeping the 1998 budget on target, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds.

Giving for February at \$2,111,513, is \$189,342 less than that given in February 1997.

Also, total giving for the first two months of 1998 is still behind January and February giving for last year. Two-month figures for 1998 are \$4,403,213; the similar time period in 1997 was \$4,844,822.

Despite the comparative drop in giving, Mississippi Baptists are still ahead of giving toward the pro rata budget by an amount of \$145,445, or 3.42%.

The pro rata budget is determined by taking the total 1998 Mississippi CP budget of \$25,546,608, then dividing by 12 months and multiplying by the number of months that have passed.

In order to reach the 1998 CP budget approved by messengers to the 1997 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Mississippi Baptist gifts would need to average \$2,120,884 per month.

The Cooperative Program helps fund missionary salaries at home and abroad, the work of six seminaries, and in Mississippi, the Baptist Student Union's spring Leadership Training Conference at Gulfshore, March 27-29, where 170 student summer missionaries will be commissioned.

### SBC CP reflects increase

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for February increased more than 5% compared to the previous year's February, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For the month of February 1998, a total of \$14,072,308 was received, compared to the same month in 1997 of \$13,390,219, an increase of \$682,088 or 5.09%.

For the first five months of the SBC fiscal year, October through February, CP receipts total \$66,606,966 compared to the same time period last year of \$64,920,033, an increase of \$1,686,933 or 2.6%.

Designated gifts for February also surpassed that month a year ago: \$48,179,231 compared to \$43,937,012, an increase of \$4,242,218 or 9.66%. For the fiscal year, \$77,299,241 in designated gifts have been received compared to \$70,634,205 a year ago, an increase of \$6,665,036 or 9.44%.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the February CP receipts surpassed the budget requirement by nearly 14%. The monthly budget requirement is \$12,348,756; thus the February receipts surpassed the goal by \$1,723,441 or 13.96%. For the fiscal year five-month period: \$66,606,966 compared to the budget requirement of \$61,743,782, an increase of \$4,863,184 or 7.88%.



# Highland Church, Laurel, continues revival

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Anticipation grew as people filled the sanctuary nestled in a residential neighborhood in Laurel. Small children roamed. People clustered in groups, like in most Baptist churches on Wednesday night.

However, things are different at Highland Church. After 31 consecutive nights of revival services, there have been 715 professions of faith and 328 baptisms.

Most pastors would like to have Highland pastor Dennis Sewell's problem: How long can revival services keep going?



ALL TOGETHER — Don Baltzilgar, music evangelist from Georgia, leads congregational singing while pastor Dennis Sewell follows in the background. (Photos by Carl M. White)

"As a shepherd, my main concern is for the congregation," Sewell said.

On the evening of Jan. 31, a fairly normal revival effort began with a men's meeting. "There were about 400 men at a wild game dinner," Sewell said.

That night, four or five men were saved. The revival services began the next morning and were scheduled for one week.

However, a year earlier Sewell felt moved to do something unusual. He asked the church and the evangelistic team to leave open the entire month of February 1998.

In his eleven-year pastorate at Highland Church, they had held two revivals a year, usually four-day events. On the fourth night, things would just begin to happen when the revival would be over.



CELEBRATE REVIVAL — Young people gather at the front of Highland Church, Laurel, to clap hands and sing during revival services.

"That's why I decided to plan for one that might go a little longer," Sewell said.

More than a month later, it's still going on. "Starting (the week of March 2) we are taking Saturday nights off," he said. "People have got to have some time to rest, go home, and wash some clothes. Also, I am pre-announcing that the services will stop at the end of March."

Both William Blackburn of Arkansas, the preaching evangelist, and Don Baltzilgar of Georgia, the musical evangelist, have had to cancel other commitments in March.

Blackburn, a member of First Church, Fort Smith, Ark., was saved at age 36 and has been in full time evangelism for 12 years.

Blackburn's own experience is an indication of his approach to the evangelism.

He said he walked the aisle at age 12, but "no one explained to me how to be saved. It was just 'walk the aisle, join the church, get wet, but don't get saved.' I had religion in my head, not Jesus in my heart."

Blackburn believes most church members are lost. "Most people in Mississippi are not saved, even if they have walked an aisle and been baptized. If you have not been saved God's way, when you die you will go straight to hell," he preached.

Sewell agrees: "I have a conviction that we have a lot of lost church members. To me this is the only way to explain the spiritual death in our churches.

"One of Satan's names is 'Deceiver.' The key issue is the deception of a man's soul. This is a form of warfare. There are many deceptions that make it easy for people to have counterfeit experiences."

As a result of this approach, many of the decisions at the Highland revival are second- even third-time, decisions.

One man standing in the baptismal awaiting baptism shared with the congregation, "I have known Jesus in my head but not in my heart. I tried to be a good, moral guy, so I figured I must be saved, but there are a lot of moral people in hell.

"I was baptized the first of May, and I thought then I was saved, but the Lord said, 'You just gave me your problems. You have to give me your whole life.' I was miserable for nine months. On March 1, 1998, I gave my entire life to Jesus Christ."

Sewell knows that many are making comparisons to the ongoing revival in Pensacola, Fla. "Highland is a Baptist church. There is nothing charismatic about the services," he said.

There is, however, a lot of celebration, hand-lifting, and praise, he indicated.

"We are solid Southern Baptist and we will remain Southern Baptist," he said.

Yet, the Highland revival is

not without criticism. Jim Bradford, Sunday School director and long-time member, understands. He indicated his own feelings of concern about the style of worship and the many re-baptisms. However, Bradford says he and the church have been changed forever.

"There have been men who made professions of faith who many thought were unreachable. There was one man in this church, a deacon, who was the pastor's biggest critic. He got saved the first week and publicly apologized in front of the whole church."

That's when John Stockstill, the youth minister at Highland Church, said he first realized this was something special.

"God has broken down barriers," Stockstill said, "like race and clothing. We did the things needed to get out of the way for God to move."

They were not prepared, however, for the flood of people. "Our youth Sunday School attendance has gone from about 30 to 110," Stockstill said.

Lorrie Rose, the ninth grade girls shepherd leader, said she has made between 40-50 contacts the past few weeks. Her shepherding group has gone from one member to 10.

Stockstill understands that



Blackburn

some criticize the crusade because so many people are being re-baptized. "This is nothing new. Billy Graham and others have said that they believe most church members are lost. We live in America, where Christianity is known as a weak vessel with no power. Satan has counterfeited Christianity," he said.

Bradford pointed to a nearby parking lot and said, "I'd much rather see 200 young people jumping up and down and clapping their hands to the music in the front of this church than down the street in that parking lot, getting into trouble."

## ACP associational software available only in Windows

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — For the 1998 Annual Church Profile process which begins later this year, associational collector software in DOS will be discontinued and available in the Windows version only, according to Cliff Tharp of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's strategic information and planning section in Nashville.

The DOS electronic form for churches will continue to be available for 1998 and is fully compatible with the associational Windows collector, Tharp said.

Through the Annual Church Profile, statistics are reported by churches and compiled by association, state convention, and national denomination.

"This decision came down to a stewardship issue," Tharp said. "The development cost for DOS software is significantly higher than Windows and we have a small number of associations using DOS."

Associations that have been using the DOS collector software may choose the Windows collector if they have a computer that meets the Windows requirements or they may use a paper process to collect ACP data from churches, he said. The minimum computer requirements for the Windows collector software for associations are:

- IBM-compatible computer with an 80486DX or higher CPU.
- 16 megabytes RAM memory.
- Microsoft Windows Version 3.1.

Windows 95.

- MS-DOS Version 6.22 or higher.
- Video adapter/monitor compatible with Windows (VGA color or higher).

— 3.5-inch floppy disk drive (1.44 MB) for installation.

— Large permanent swap file of 16 megabytes or larger.

Questions about 1998 collector software for associations may be directed to state convention statistical representatives or to Tharp at (615) 251-2517 or cliff.tharp@bssb.com.

# Southern Baptists minister during Olympics

**NAGANO, Japan (BP)** — For a few days, at least, this one city of Japan was like a growing mission field. A great number of people were open. Many were inquiring. A few were even searching.

Quite a change from the Japan most Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries know and love. But a welcome one, nonetheless.

When the Games were over, 350 volunteers — including 60 Southern Baptists — and other full-time Christian workers from inside and outside of Japan — including about 20 IMB missionary personnel — had greeted thousands and led at least 100 to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

"Several times we commented that this is not the Japan we've lived in," said IMB missionary Tony Woods, who coordinated the Nagano Olympic Evangelism Committee. Japanese are known for being more open when they're away from the traditions of home, and the great number of foreigners created that atmosphere.

"The people were very receptive," Woods added. "It was like when they got off the train in Nagano, they were in a magic land and they wanted to hear what we had to say."

At one point, a coffee shop manned by volunteers reported 10 people a day were deciding to follow Jesus. Volunteers gave away cross-shaped "Nagano 1998" Olympic trading pins the committee designed, sharing the gospel as they explained the pin and reportedly going through at least 14,000 of them.

The ad hoc collection of evangelicals from various groups, collectively led by the evangelism committee, had distributed all of the 200,000 tracts and Scripture portions available to them by the time the Games were over.

They also gave out nearly 4,000 copies of

the video, "Jesus," in 52 languages.

One large group of athletes from a country closed to the gospel was able to watch the entire evangelistic film one night in the Olympic Village's Religious Center, where a Japanese pastor had set up public screenings.

Also, a group of Russian athletes kept coming into the Religious Center to ask questions. Finally, 13 of them prayed to receive Jesus Christ.

Tommy Hughes, an Alabama Baptist convention employee who traveled with a team of 28 Southern Baptist volunteers from Georgia to shoot video of the Olympic evangelism project, led a Japanese woman from Tokyo to understand the gospel.

She had dreamed of coming to Nagano's Zenkogi Temple — a center for several major Buddhist sects — to seek relief from a crippling condition, but she became interested in the gospel as he shared his faith with her.

He gave her a Gospel of John. She had heard of Jesus only as the name related to Christmas.

Hughes accompanied a team working outside the same temple. The volunteers prayed together and then split up and walked inside, praying for victory over the deceptions of traditional religion that hold the Japanese in spiritual bondage.

The team slept at nights on the floor of a church in the shadow of the Zenkogi temple.

The pastor of the church had asked the evangelism committee to send him volunteers "who know how to pray, because we have to pray to be able to stay here," Woods said.

The temple's strong presence "is the main reason people have been slow to respond to Christianity in Nagano."

Evangelicals secured strategic locations near Olympic events to reach out to

Japanese and international visitors alike. One coffeehouse, Champion Cafe, sat on a thoroughfare between Olympic festivities and the train station that brought people into Nagano.

People wandered in off the street and watched various Olympics events on the big-screen TV.

A Southern Baptist physician, Stuart Sanders, worked in the hospital set up for athletes inside Olympic Village and was able to share his faith as he met competitors, their families and other hospital staff, said IMB missionary Marsha Woods.

He had gained the right to work there because he worked in Atlanta during the Summer Games in 1996.

Many volunteer teams could be seen passing out literature in the crowd or engaging in more direct street evangelism with such tools as balloons and puppets as door openers.

The southern American accents seemed to attract the attention of internationals — shares her faith while giving away especially younger people.

Southern Baptist Steve souvenir pin. (BP photo by Tommy Hoekstra, a resort minister from Aspen, Colo., dressed up like a Colorado mountain man and went into the crowds to preach — only to find himself thronged with people who wanted to get their pictures taken with him.

Volunteers stayed close and shared the gospel as people were attracted to him, first explaining he was a Baptist preacher from America and then telling them about Jesus.



TRADING PINS — Debbie Wohler, a Southern Baptist resort

accents seemed to attract the attention of internationals — shares her faith while giving away especially younger people.

Southern Baptist Steve souvenir pin. (BP photo by Tommy Hoekstra, a resort minister from Aspen, Colo., dressed up like a Colorado mountain man and went into the crowds to preach — only to find himself thronged with people who wanted to get their pictures taken with him.

## WMU sends first national team to Nagano games

**NAGANO, Japan (BP)** — A 16-member team of Women on Mission Enterprisers were among the 60 volunteers representing Southern Baptists at the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan.

The women, representing nine states, were members of the first national team to be sent out by Volunteer Connection, the three-year-old

volunteer program of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Women on Mission is the WMU adult organization and Enterprisers is the volunteer program of the organization.

The WMU team was in Nagano Feb. 3-16.

Their ministries included street evangelism, face-painting, and activities at two Japanese churches.



**MORE THAN GOLD** — A Southern Baptist volunteer team shares "More Than Gold" evangelistic booklets outside Olympic Stadium in Nagano. Many volunteer teams could be seen passing out literature in the crowd, while others engaged in more direct street evangelism using such tools as balloons and puppets as door openers. (BP photo by Tommy Hughes)

All of their activities were coordinated through Tony and Marsha Woods, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries in the country who served on the Nagano Olympic Evangelism Committee.

Delane Tew, Volunteer Connection specialist, led the Enterpriser team. Before joining the WMU staff, she had served 12 years as a missionary in Japan.

"I was so proud of the women," Tew said. "They were truly 'Women on Mission.' They took every opportunity to look outside themselves (as a group) to see who was around them that they could reach out to.

"They didn't try to stick together," she continued.

"Rather, they deliberately split up on the train and buses so that they could meet new people and have an opportunity to share their faith.

"It was exciting to see them sharing gospel tracts and Scripture portions with everyone they met."

As for the cross-cultural experience, Tew also had high praise for the women.

"They were not afraid of the new culture. They adapted easily to the culture and did not retreat from the new experiences at all."

One of the unique aspects of

the trip for the Women on Mission Enterprisers was the opportunity to stay in Japanese homes. The host families were members of the Japanese churches where the volunteers helped in ministry projects.

A couple of the women stayed in a home where the wife is a Christian and the husband is a devout Buddhist," Tew recounted.

"Normally, the husband would never attend church with his wife, but he did the Sunday the women stayed in their home.

"I pray that our presence in these churches and homes will have a lasting spiritual impact," Tew said.

"I know that the presence of the 'foreigners' brought people to the churches who otherwise would never have attended. Hopefully, the churches will see results from the seeds they were able to plant because we were there."



PERSONAL TOUCH — Dick Reasoner from Atlanta fits a balloon hat on a child outside an evangelical cafe near Olympic festivities in Nagano. (BP photo by Tommy Hughes)

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**David Culpepper** was licensed to the gospel ministry at Central Church, Brookhaven, where he is currently serving as interim youth director. Culpepper is available for preaching engagements. Pictured (from left) are Gary Strehlow, pastor; Culpepper; and J. D. Thames, chairman of deacons.



**Providence Church, Cleveland**, licensed **Chad Sipes** (right) to the ministry on Feb. 15. Eugene Walden, pastor, presented Sipes with a certificate. Sipes is a senior at Delta State University and youth director at Providence Church.



**Jay Michael** was ordained to the gospel ministry on Nov. 16 at College Hill Heights Church, Oxford, after accepting a call by the church to be its pastor. Pictured (from left) are John Flowers, retired pastor, First Church, Senatobia (brought charge to the candidate); Don Stanfill, director of missions, Lafayette-Marshall Association, (moderator of ordaining council); Michael; and Jerry Sanford, pastor, First Church, Sardis (brought charge to the church).

**Carterville Church, Petal**, has called **Donald Wesley Morrison** as minister of education effective March 15. Morrison is a graduate of Greenville High School, Delta State University, and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Winter Garden, Fla.

**Belden Church, Lee Association**, has called **Scott**



**Morrison**

## W. F. (Pete) Evans, former pastor, dies

Funeral services for W. F. (Pete) Evans, 74, were held Tuesday, March 3, at State Boulevard Church, Meridian. He died Sunday, March 1, at Baptist Memorial Union County Hospital in New Albany.

Evans was a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. He served the following churches in



**Evans**

Mississippi: Rock Branch, Union; Bentonia, Bentonia; Midway, Jackson; First, New Albany; State Boulevard, Meridian; North East, Lauderdale County; and served at the Baptist Children's Village, Jackson. He also served churches in Goshen, Lawrenceburg, Ky., and Nicholasville, Nicholasville, Ky.

Survivors include his wife Mary Katharine Evans; daughter, Kathy Gulledge of Clinton; son, Don Evans of New Albany; five granddaughters, Paige Gulledge, Allyson Thames, Brooke Gulledge, Mikel Washburn, and Kate Evans; and one grandson, Will Evans.

The family requests memorials be made to the Baptist Children's Village.



**Mississippi Valley Gas Company**

*Safety is our first priority.*

## CHURCH PEWS & FURNITURE CO.

★ Cushions ★ Baptisteries  
★ Steeples ★ Renovation  
★ Pews and Pulpit Furniture  
(New and Used)  
Wallace E. Foy

**WATTS 1-800-898-0551**  
**Jackson 957-3762**

## STAFF CHANGES

**Rogers** as associate pastor effective March 1. A native of Corinth, Rogers received his education at Union University and extension through New Orleans Seminary.

**The Home of Grace**, a recovery program for men and women with alcohol and drug addictions, has added **Glen Savell** to its staff. He is serving as staff evangelist.



**Savell**



**ALL SIZES  
SALES AND RENTALS**

## CHURCH BUSES

**#1 MANUFACTURER  
COMPETITIVE PRICING**

**SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.**

**CLINTON, MS**

**1-800-423-9826  
1-601-924-1982**

**GLORIETA<sup>TM</sup>**  
**CONFERENCE CENTER**

\*Conferences \*Family Vacations \*Reunions  
\*Meetings \*Retreats  
**Information: 505-757-6161**  
**Reservations: 1-800-797-4222**  
Stay with Family, stay at a Christian Conference Center  
GCC-Spring 98

 **Custom Church Interiors, Inc.**

### PEWS

Pew Refinishing & Reupholstering  
Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights  
Painting • Baptisteries • Steeples  
Complete Renovations

**1-800-654-1294**

Jackson, MS 601-957-8844

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 12, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



Christian Performing Arts  
Festival  
and  
Youth Ministry Lab

March 27-28, 1998  
First Baptist Church, Richland

## WEARY TO SPEAK AT JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION

You are invited to hear Dolphus Weary, the new executive director of Mission Mississippi, describe his Journey of Reconciliation. The meeting will take place on March 16 from 2-4 p.m. in the Sky Room of the Baptist Building in Jackson.

Dolphus Weary is a native of Mississippi, and a frequent speaker at national conferences. He was educated at the University of Southern California and Los Angeles Baptist College. He attended seminary at the Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary and received a master of education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. Dolphus has been a featured writer for several publications, including **Daily Guideposts**, and his book, entitled **I Ain't Coming Back**, tells of his early life growing up in Mississippi.

WEARY For more information on this meeting, call Richard Brogan in the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651 or locally at 968-3800.

## Church Facilities Workshop

April 14, 1998  
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Parkway Baptist Church  
802 North Frontage Road  
Clinton, Mississippi  
924-9912

### Workshop Aspects:

- Conferences involving every aspect of church facility and program needs
- Consultation with conference leaders available upon request
- Vendors will showcase their church services and furnishings
- Representative from Church Architecture Department of the Sunday School Board will be present

### Issues to be Dealt With in Conferences:

- Church Growth Issues
- Legal Issues
- Space (worship, education, childcare, recreation, fellowship, and multi-purpose)
- Interior Design and Furnishings
- Renovation and Maintenance
- Construction Issues and Costs
- Finances (banks, bonds and stewardship campaigns)
- Architect and Design Team
- Acoustics and Sound Systems

### 1998 STATE BIBLE DRILLS

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Monday April 13	Biloxi, FBC Senatobia, FBC*	3-4:30 p.m.
Tuesday April 14	Brookhaven, FBC Greenwood, FBC	3-4:30 p.m.
Thursday April 16	Tupelo, FBC <i>(Churches outside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union County, and Tishomingo Associations)</i>	3-4:30 p.m.
	Tupelo, Calvary BC <i>(Churches inside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union County, and Tishomingo Associations)</i>	3-4:30 p.m.
Friday April 17	Starkville, FBC <i>(Churches outside Clay, Oktibbeha, Lowndes, and Winston Associations)</i>	3-4:30 p.m.
	Starkville, Calvary BC <i>(Churches inside Clay, Oktibbeha, Lowndes, and Winston Associations)</i>	3-4:30 p.m.
Saturday April 18	Madison, Ridgecrest BC <i>(Churches outside Metro, Rankin, and Warren Associations)</i>	1:30-3 p.m.
	Clinton, FBC <i>(Churches inside Metro, Rankin, and Warren Association)</i>	1:30-3 p.m.
Monday April 20	Hattiesburg, FBC	3-4:30 p.m.
	Meridian, FBC	3-4:30 p.m.
Tuesday April 21	Wiggins, FBC	3-4:30 p.m.

For more information, call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651.

\*Note change of location on Monday, April 13

### 1998 State Young Musicians' Camp

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
June 26-30

Guest Conductor: Steve Roddy

Blue Mountain College  
July 20-24

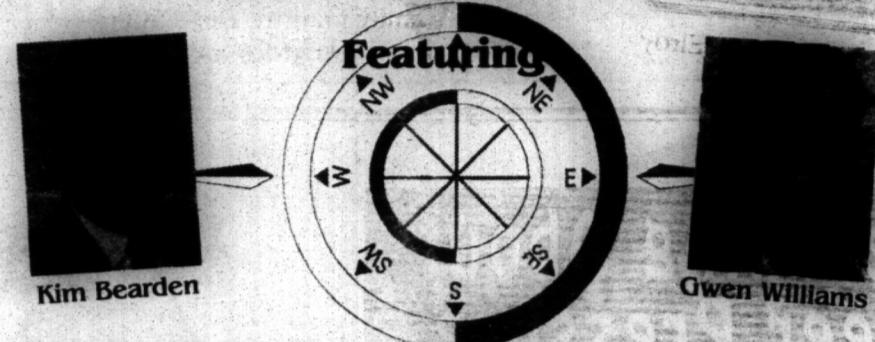
Guest Conductor: Don Odom

Contact the Church Music Department at  
601-968-3800 for more information.

### 1998 STATE SINGLES RETREAT

Celebrating 20 Years at Gulfshore

May 23-25  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly



For more information, contact Glenn Shows, singles consultant, Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, at 1-800-748-1651, ext.373.



### SCHEDULE

July 1-4  
July 11-14  
July 27-31

1998 SUMMER CAMP



Jeff & Debbie McElroy

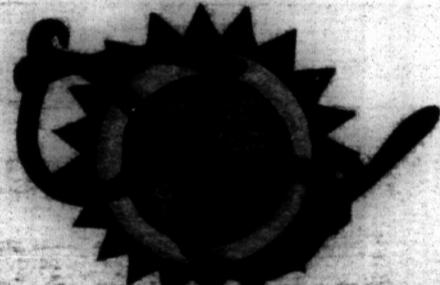
### Legacy of Love

July 4-8, 1998  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
featuring Jeff & Debbie McElroy

For registration form and brochure, call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651.

## Learning About Peer Pressure

Older Children's Retreat  
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly  
July 16-18, 1998  
Cost: \$75



### "Cool in the Sun"

This retreat is especially designed for children who have completed grades 4-6 and their leaders. For more program information, call Linda Reeves at 1-800-748-1651, or e-mail at lreeves@mbcb.org.

## Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference

April 13-14, 1998  
Camp Garaywa  
Clinton, Miss.



The theme for this year's conference is "Lord, Help Me Bee All You Want Me to Bee." If you need a registration and information brochure, call Anne Martin at 1-800-748-1651, ext 305.

### GA Summer Camp Counselors Needed!

#### 1998 GA SUMMER CAMP DATES

June 1-5	GA's grades 1 and 2
June 8-12	Mother/Daughter
June 15-19	Overnight: June 19-20
June 22-26	
June 29-July 3	GA's grades 1-6
July 6-10	Mother/Daughter
July 13-17	Overnight: July 10-11
July 20-24	Acteens Camp: July 24-26

If you are interested in serving as a 1998 GA Summer Camp Counselor, call 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 for an application.

### REGISTRATION FORM

#### Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting Workshop

April 17 (6 p.m.) -18 (3:15 p.m.), 1998 • Calvary Baptist Church • Jackson

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

I need a reservation for:  all activities on Friday and Saturday \$25 enclosed  
 all activities with group of 4 or more \$20 enclosed  
 Friday Awards Banquet only \$15 enclosed  
 Saturday Workshop only \$15 enclosed

Please mark the workshops you will attend. This information is needed by registration deadline because workshops will be limited to a certain number of people. Every effort will be made to accommodate any adjustments.

#### 9:15 AM CONFERENCES (mark one)

- Producing a Worship Service
- Emerging Technology for the Local Church
- Shooting & Editing with the Single Camera
- Program Production (other than worship)

#### 1:00 PM CONFERENCES (mark one)

- Emerging Technology for the Local Church
- Shooting & Editing with the Single Camera
- Basic Audio in the Church
- Producing Outreach Videos and Spots

Registration deadline is April 8, 1998. (Reservations are non-refundable after that date.)

Make check payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Mail to: Farrell Blankenship, MBIB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

## 1998 SENIOR ADULT RETREATS

GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY  
"EQUIPPING SENIORS FOR SERVICE"

May 19-22 (\$118 each)

May 25-27 (\$81.50 each)

May 28-30 (\$81.50 each)

Sponsored by the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

### Registration Form Senior Adult Retreats

Mail after March 1 along with a \$30 deposit per senior adult to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571, or call 228-452-7261.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Association \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Sr. Adult I

\_\_\_\_ Sr. Adult II

\_\_\_\_ Sr. Adult III

## Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

*The more you pray, the more you love God and the more you love others. The more you love, the more you want to pray.*

- Mrs. Deborah Wiles, in Jan. '98 Missions Mosaic

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). Pray for the Holy Spirit's leadership, as many depend upon the hearing of the Word over the radio. They often have access to Bibles.

15

Start-A-Church Commitment Day (MEAA Emphasis). On Feb. 4-7 at the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba's annual meeting, the convention voted to begin its own home and international missionary-sending agency. Would you pray daily for Cuban Baptists, especially for the convention's leadership?

22

For Reconciliation Workshop; Baptist Building; sponsored by Missions Extension & Associational Administration Department.

For the WMU Annual Meeting; FBC, Hattiesburg; sponsored by the WMU.

16

Missionaries serving at the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center ask you to pray for rain for the central and southern Philippines as farmers approach what may be the decade's worst drought. Farmers already suffering from the devaluation of the currency will be devastated if a prolonged drought sets in.

17

Pray for the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires and the approximately 50 new students who will begin their studies in March. Pray that the students will be able to find jobs to pay for their studies and to provide living expenses.

18

For Small Church Leadership Conference, Calvary BC, Greenville/FBC, Lyman; sponsored by the Sunday School/ Discipleship and Family Ministry Departments.

23

For Small Church Leadership Conference, Poplar Springs BC, Newton/Oakhurst BC, Clarksdale; sponsored by the Sunday School/Discipleship and Family Ministry Departments.

24

Please pray for a new believer in India whose husband has demanded that she turn from her faith. He has threatened to send her away if she does not, and she would have to leave her young son.

25

On March 13-14 an association-wide Pioneer Evangelism Training Clinic will be held in the Second Baptist Church of Caxias do Sul in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Participants will receive training on strengthening their personal devotional life, giving a personal testimony and leading evangelistic home Bible studies.

13

Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to reach out and share the love of Christ with the people of Iraq. Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors who will stand in the gap.

19

A two-year old court case against the Jordan Baptist Society and Baptist representative Charles Browning, which was brought by a former employee who had been released from his job for just causes, has not been officially settled. Pray that this will be resolved to the glory of God.

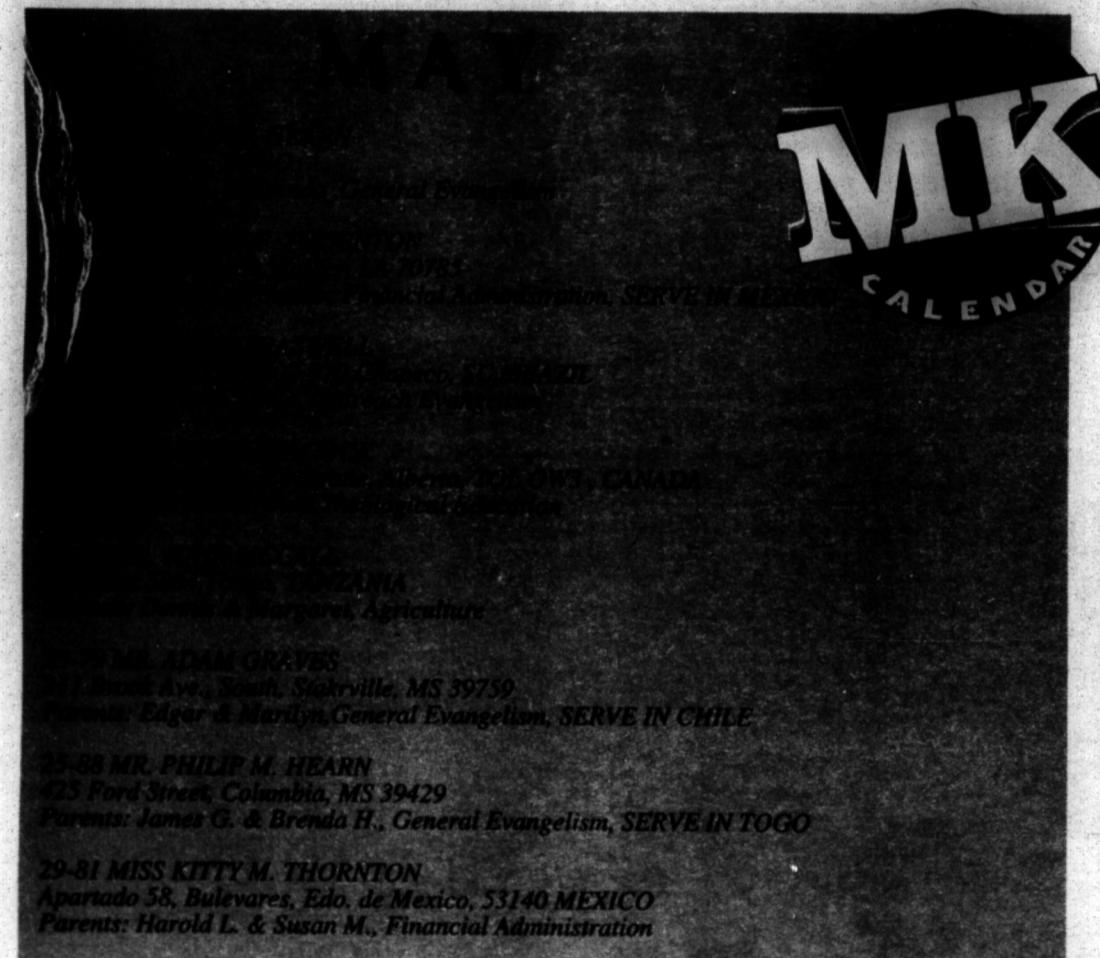
26

For Church Weekday Education Clinic; FBC, Tupelo; sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry. Pray for Muslims who convert to Christianity. Many face opposition, persecution and death at the hand of their family.

14

For Fellowship Officers and Area Coordinators, Central Hills Retreat; sponsored by the Brotherhood. For GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa; sponsored by the WMU. For State Youth Camp Festival, Richland BC, Richland; sponsored by the Church Music Department.

21



### A Conference for Reaching and Teaching Future Generations

Trinity Baptist Church  
Southaven, Mississippi  
May 1-2, 1998

Registration begins 3 p.m. Friday  
Program concludes Saturday, 12:15 p.m.

Program fee: \$12.50  
Catfish dinner Friday night: \$6

A ministry of  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
and Tennessee Baptist Convention

For more information, call the Sunday School  
Department at 1-800-748-1651.



### Outreach Awareness Strategy Tour

9 a.m.-Noon

7-9 p.m.

Please note time change since the diary was printed.

#### Conference Locations

April 13 First Baptist Church, Vicksburg

April 14 First Baptist Church, Natchez

April 16 First Baptist Church, Brookhaven

Tired of outreach events that don't seem to work? Weary of getting people to come to outreach nights? Are you confused about what to do to reach your neighborhood? We want to help. The Outreach Awareness/Strategy Tour is designed to help you develop a strategy to reach your community. The morning session, from 9 a.m. noon is specifically for pastors and key leaders, and is designed to help you begin developing a purposeful and personal strategy based on the particular situation God has placed you in. That evening, from 7-9 p.m., we want you to bring all of your leaders and we will have age group conferences that will help them focus on reaching the special needs of that age group. We hope that by the end of the day you will have all that is needed to pray about and develop a new and unified approach to outreach. For more information and registration form, call the Sunday School Department at 1-800-748-1651.

- Strategies for All Age Groups
- Demographics Available

## SEARCHING FOR PASTOR

### Editor:

I am the chairperson of the Pastor Search Committee at Calvary Baptist Church, Caribou, Maine, a rural community of about 9,000 people.

A potential pastor must be a man who feels God is leading him to a ministry that would fit our situation. Our present circumstances dictate that our new pastor be bivocational.

Anyone wishing further information should contact me at 24 Vaughn Street, Caribou, Maine 04736 or call (207) 498-8326.

Javed Siddiqui  
Caribou, ME

## WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

### Editor:

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission is extremely appreciative of the support you gave us in the Baptist Record for the church anniversary workshop sponsored in Clinton on Friday, February 20.

Thirty-three associations with more than 120 individuals were represented at the workshop including several Directors of Missions. The association with the largest attendance was Covington-Jeff Davis with ten representatives.

An able group of program personalities shared with the attendees information about preparing a church history, celebrating an anniversary, organizing appropriate committees and publicizing special activities scheduled for the anniversary celebration.

Unfortunately, I was unable to be present for the actual workshop because of bypass surgery, but I wish to publicly express appreciation to all of the program participants and especially to Mrs. Rachel Pyron, our current archivist/librarian.

Currently, we have 15 of our 1998 anniversary churches (100, 125, 150, 175 or 200 years) that have scheduled special activities to engender a renewed spirit of excitement in churches that have served the cause of Christ for more than a century.

We would like to encourage other churches with the anniversaries identified above to secure helpful hints from our Commission office and to plan and implement special activities to add a measure of excitement to the ongoing programs of the churches.

Edward McMillan, exec. sec.  
Miss. Bapt. Historical Comm.  
Clinton, MS

*Editors note: The Historical Commission may be contacted at P. O. Box 51, Clinton, MS 39060-0051. Telephone: (601) 925-3434.*

## SO. BAPTIST YANKEES

### Editor:

Northwest Pennsylvania is an exciting growth area for Southern Baptists. After our state convention started the most successful north-eastern SBC church ever, God called us to start two more.

Even with all of the excitement and growth, it is difficult to find pastors who are willing to come and live in the Northeast.

Our solution is to raise up godly and well trained leaders to undertake the task — Southern Baptists with Yankee accents!

In order to do this, we have partnered with an innovative program sponsored by Oklahoma Baptist University. For this program to function we need a God-called retired minister who believes in education.

This person needs to have an M.Div. or better, a desire to teach college level courses, good people skills, and an openness to being on the staff of a contemporary, innovative, rapidly growing congregation. Living and ministry expenses will be covered by the ministry.

Feel free to contact me at dhulsey@key-net.net or at the Northwest Association office: 252 Derrick Road, Bradford, PA 16701, 814-362-6578.

Twenty students are signed up and ready to begin ministry training! Is God calling you to make a difference in their lives? Let us know.

Don Hulsey, dir. of missions  
Northwest Association  
Bradford, PA



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.*

*Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.*

*Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)*

*Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.*

*Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.*

*No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.*

*When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.*

Things will be "buzzing" around Camp Garaywa on Monday and Tuesday, April 13-14. These two days are the dates of the annual State Secretaries Conference for Mississippi Baptist Secretaries.

Whatever title you give to your "Girl Friday," whether secretary, administrative assistant, support staff person, etc., I hope you will encourage your ministry assistant to attend this year's conference.

Although I have served as Church Secretary/Pastor's Secretary on the staff at First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, for 41 years, I still take advantage of as many training opportunities as possible.

I find that I never get too old to learn, and I always come away from these training opportunities more informed, inspired, and refreshed.

If you or your secretaries need additional information or if you have questions, drop me a note c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 780, Yazoo City, MS 39194, call me at (601) 746-2471, or fax me at 746-2441.

Linda Jenkins  
Yazoo City

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING**

**Start Something New**

**MINISTRY**

**National Goal:  
\$42,000,000**

# Your children will have a ball!

23 Camps are Full!  
These weeks are still OPEN!!

**Children's Camp with a Sports Emphasis**

Please cut along line and mail form below with \$50 per person deposit to register.

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) Bus. Phone (\_\_\_\_) Date/Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Cost: \$208**

Campbellsville, Ky. - Week of June 13-19  
Week of June 20-26

Inv. of West Al. - Week of June 13-19

Anderson College - Anderson, S.C. - Week of June 13-19

Bluefield College - Bluefield, W. Va. - Week of June 13-19

SW MS Union College - Clinton, MS - Week of June 13-19

Elizabethtown College - Elizabethtown, PA - Week of June 13-19

Abraham Baldwin College - Tifton, GA - Week of June 13-19

Hawkins College - Macomb, IL - Week of June 13-19

Skylight Baptist Assembly - Mechanicsburg, MD - Week of June 13-19

Weatherford College - Weatherford, TX - Week of June 13-19

Brownwood Parker College - Brownwood, TX - Week of June 13-19

Wayland Baptist Univ. - Plainview, TX - Week of June 13-19

Housing assignment information - notify CROSSPOINT office of any changes: Male Campers \_\_\_\_\_ Female Campers \_\_\_\_\_ Male Counselors \_\_\_\_\_  
 Female Counselors \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_ Total # of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 - Total Deposit \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed application to CROSSPOINT, P.O. Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37202. To request a free video, posters, and/or brochures, please call the Crosspoint office at 615-251-3834.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Edwards Church, Edwards**, recently ordained **Dave Montgomery** as deacon. Pictured (from left) are **Russell M. McIntire**, pastor; **Montgomery**; and **Roland Cranford**, chairman of the deacons.



**Shady Grove Church, Panola Association**, ordained three deacons on June 1. Ordained were (pictured from left, front row) **Ray Manning**, **Wayne Lawrence**, and **Brad Pierce**. Deacons (back row) are **Russell Pierce**, **Wayne Putman**, and **James Bay**.



**Central Church, McComb**, ordained six men as deacons on March 1. Pictured, they are (right to left, bottom row) **Victor Fairburn**, **Jim Terrell**, **Andy Burch**; (top row) **Pirom Pruski**, **Kevin Johnston**, and **Keith Gaskin**.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Bogue Chitto (Lincoln):** March 22-27; Sunday 11 a.m.; 7 nightly; James Messer Sr., Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Gary Crosby, Bogue Chitto, music; Bill Hudson, pastor.

**D'LO (Simpson):** March 29-April 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. and followed by lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ronny Robinson, executive director,

**Baptist Children's Village**, evangelist; Bob Harris, D'LO Church, music; Robert Sones, pastor.

**New Elbethel (Lafayette):** March 15-20; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., services, 10:45 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Daniel Dickerson, Water Valley, evangelist; Ron Jenkins, pastor.

**First, Calhoun City:** March 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Harold Bryson, Mississippi College (MC), evangelist; Lewis Oswalt, MC, music; Anthony Kay, pastor.

**Wess Chapel, Louisville:** March 15-18; 7 p.m. nightly; Arnold Davis, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, music; Tim Parker, pastor.

**Swiftwater, Greenville:** March 15-20; Sunday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon and 7 p.m.; Dick Ludig, Great Passion Play, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, evangelist; Jerry Bingham, pastor.

**Goss, Columbia:** March 22-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Kent Campbell, Foxworth, evangelist; Danny Miller, Baton Rouge, La., music; David Laird, pastor.

**Kilmichael (Montgomery):** March 29-April 1; 7 p.m.; Bill

Bozeman, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Joe Styron, Kilmichael, music; Gary White, pastor.

**Salem, Tylertown:** March 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Jerry Johnson, Genmora, La., evangelist; James Pender, pastor.

**Noxapater (Winston):** April 5-8; Tommy Tutor, Pontotoc, evangelist; David Sumner, Noxapater, music; Wayne Sanders, pastor.

**Woodville Heights, Jackson:** March 15-18; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, evangelist; James Beasley, Crystal Springs, music.

**Victory, Mathiston:** March 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Andy Parrish of Memphis, J. E. Sims of Starkville, David Holston of Starkville, and Martin Jacks of Eupora, speakers; Evelyn Clay, music; Don Parrish, pastor.

## LOTTIE MOON GOALS REACHED



**RAs of Central Church, Brookhaven**, raised more than \$700 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. They used a bike-a-thon and were "Riding for the Son." Pictured (from left) are Gary Weidenfeld, Jacob Dunn, Jake Godard, Brodie Davis, and Marshall Smith; (back row) David Dunn, Scott Godard, and David Smith.

**Churches in Clarke County Association** gave \$49,625.60 to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. "Ask the people to pray that for the '98-'99 Lottie Moon Season we can give at least \$52,000. That would be \$1,000 per week for the year to Lottie Moon in the 28 churches in Clarke County Association," said Grady Crowell, director of missions.

**Faith Church, North Jackson**, exceeded its goal of \$1,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The church gave a final total of \$3,507.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contact advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. Only written ads accepted.

**PARADISE LANES:** Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-in, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS (601) 372-7700.

ing the period before the Civil War, has eight bedrooms with private baths. Lunch served Tues., Wed., Thurs., 11:30-2. Please call for church group reservations. (601) 892-2526.

**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS**, Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. **MURPHY ROBE SALES**. Call (601) 483-7958 or 1-800-368-2705.

**CALL KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT** in Eureka Springs, Arkansas for the best (\$15.25) seats at THE GREAT PASSION PLAY, plus economical group lodging, recreation, supper and breakfast, all for JUST \$34.95 EACH. (501) 253-8418.

**CFI — PEWS, NEW & USED**. Baptisteries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

**MADDEN MEMORIES AND WOODLAND COURT** Retirement and Personal Care Centers. Christian based, licensed by MS Health Commission, 16 years experience,

providing high quality care while maintaining each resident's independence and self-esteem. Owner's telephone: Shirley Jones—253-2401; Chip & Jo Anne Jones—253-0001; Chris & Cindy Jones—253-2131.

**GLORIETA CONFERENCE CENTER**. Stay with family; spring, summer, fall, or winter. Call, 1-800-797-4222 to make reservations or for information.

**STEVE WALKER, MUSIC EVANGELIST**, available for revivals and solo concerts. Dates still open for 1998. Write 1186 Simpson Hwy. 28W, Pinola, MS 39149 or call (601) 847-4375.

**YOUTH OUTINGS!** Paintball-games! Other functions! Curry Creek Outdoors. (601) 722-9000.

**REVIVAL PREPARATION MANUAL**: A tested, tried, & proven manual (162 pgs; cost \$20 includes postage). Works for all churches. Call Dr. Forrest Sheffield, Harrisburg, Baptist Church, Tupelo (601) 842-6917

Are your seniors tired of crawling over the HUMP? The solution is a 15-passenger van with an aisle, raised roof & electric step. Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622. BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!

### MINISTER WANTED

**BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTER WANTED:** Meadowview Baptist Church, ATTN: Music Committee, 300 Linden Circle, Starkville, MS 39759, Tel: (601) 323-2963.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC** Paul Truitt Memorial Church (Rankin) is searching for part-time Minister of Music. Send resume to Search Committee, 3705 Old Brandon Road, Pearl, MS 39208 or call (601) 939-2975.

**PIANIST** for small church approximately 20 miles from Jackson. Contact Ron Reeves at (601) 852-2276, leave message.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Members of New Hope Church, Foxworth, with perfect attendance in Sunday School were recognized in the morning worship service on Nov. 23. Pictured are Karla Ratliff, 6 years; Mitch Ratliff, 6 years; Donna Ratliff, 16 years; Peggy Stringer, 9 years; Nancy Thomas, 15 years; B. B. Stringer, 42 years; Alan Stringer, 7 years; Amy Lowery, 10 years; Tiffany Kroner, 10 years; Beverly Kroner, 4 years; Bonnie Pittman, 7 years; Betty Pittman, 4 years; Barbara Magee, 2 years; Willie Blackwell, 14 years; Sherrell Magee, 16 years; and Donald Lowery, 9 years. Not pictured were Chase Clark, 1 year; Jimmy Thomas, 28 years, Carole Lowe, 2 years, Kristie Clark, 8 years; and Jason Stringer, 1 year.

**Women's Ministry of First Church, Brandon**, presented "Women — The Heart of the Home" on Feb. 5. Speaking with emphasis on the virtuous woman were Pat Fordice, First Lady of Mississippi, and Sheila Parker, former foreign missionary. The guests were

entertained by "4-Ever His" from Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

**Wesson Church, Wesson**, will present The Anchormen on March 27 at 7 p.m. For more information call Billy Ashley at (601) 643-5847 or Eddie Ashley at (601) 643-2338.

**Mona Faith** will be in concert at First Church, Terry, March 29 at 6 p.m. For more information call (601) 878-5735.

**Steeple & Baptisteries**

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steeples • Kitchens
- Baptisteries • Windows
- Lighted Wall • Baptistry
- Crosses • Heaters

Call or write for our free catalog

1-800-527-1459  
PO Box 1340  
Henderson, TX 75653-1340

**FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED**

**BAPTISTERIES**  
HEATERS, PUMPS  
FACTORY DIRECT  
TOLL FREE NATIONWIDE  
1-800-251-0679

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTERY CO.  
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

### ADVERTISING PLANNER FOR CHRISTIAN MARKET

If you'd like to use your communication skills to help churches know about Christian resources available to them, we'd like to hear from you. We're looking for two persons with about ten years experience for positions involving communications, advertising, and promotion.

Bachelor's degree required.

Ten years experience involving communications, advertising, and promotion required. Exceptional skills needed, including strong interpersonal skills; planning skill, ability to coordinate several projects simultaneously; ability to work with a graphic designer to develop concepts; copywriting; ability to establish communication goals; and skills in selecting appropriate communication methods/vehicles to achieve those goals. While the current methods being used are primarily print-oriented, some projects involve video presentations, audio messages, and the use of exhibits.

If that's a match with your skills, and if your heart yearns to be involved in a position that helps churches carry out their ministries, send your resume and salary requirement to:

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. MSN 121  
SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD  
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
127 9TH AVENUE, NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TN 37234-0121  
Fax: (615) 251-5017**



Twelve men from Flowood Church, Brandon, went to work at Trinity Church in Peru (north of Indianapolis) Ind. The men did various projects on the renovation of an old church facility of another church denomination in that city. Trinity Church averages about 35 members. Pictured (front row, from left) are Ricky Gray, pastor; David Westerfield; Beacher King; and Chad Stuart; (back row) Donald Flynt; Ray Ainsworth; Donnie Thomas; Bill Dunigan; Bobby G. Moore; Freddie Lang; and Tom Anderson.



The Acteens and GAs of Eastside Church, Belzoni, hosted a Valentine's Day Luncheon for the senior adult ladies who were "single or single-again." On program were Bennie Harris, guest speaker, and Maudine Dudley, musician, both were from Scooba Church. Denise Dudley Roberts is Acteens leader. GA leaders are Lori Swoope and Crystal Roberts. Kevin Griffin is pastor.

**Liberty Church, Union County**, recently held its Acteen recognition service. Pictured (from left) are Melanie McCarter, Amanda Barton, Jessica Roberson, Emily Fitzgerald, Queen; Christy Murrah, Kellie Pickens, Jenny Tate, Queen with Scepter; Samantha Huffstatter, Allie Scott, Sara Cross, and Nikki Maier, Queen. Debbie Murrah and Dana Pickens are the leaders.

### Volunteers needed for China project

**RICHMOND (BP)** — Fifty English teachers are needed this summer to teach middle school instructors throughout China. The eight-week program is sponsored by the Volunteers in Missions department of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

"The International Mission Board will be cooperating with a highly experienced and reputable English-as-a-Second-Language organization in deploying capable teachers throughout China," said Bob McEachern, associate director for the board's Asia and Pacific volunteer section.

Interested persons should call the International Mission Board at (800) 999-3113, then press eight when prompted.

### Are you paying too much for your Hospital or Medicare Supplement Insurance? If yes, call for our Low Rates Today!

#### Major Hospital & Surgical Plan

Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery, Ambulance.

Many Pre-Existing Health Conditions acceptable — High blood pressure, Diabetes, Heart conditions, etc. (Excellent Rates on ages 50+)

#### Medicare Supplement

Ages 65 and over. No waiting periods!  
Low Rates!

Prescription Savers Plan: Save up to 50% on prescription drugs!

#### Medicare Supplement under age 65

Call today for free information:  
**E.F. Hutton Insurance  
Marketing**

PO Box 5127, Brandon, MS 39047

**1-800-463-4348**

# Churches discover usefulness of magazines

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Churches are discovering new ways to reach their communities for Christ by sending demographically targeted, practical magazines with custom-tailored messages to readers who may not attend Sunday services.

"We are sending ParentLife, Living with Teenagers, and HomeLife's TODAY with a message from our church to those people we feel connect with the demographics of our church," Barry Odom, pastor of evangelism and missions at Braelinn Church, Peachtree City, Ga., said.

The three magazines, produced by the Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development magazine department, are among the periodicals churches can customize by providing a personal message on the inside.

Other magazines that may include unique church messages are Mature Living, Christian Single, Journey (devotional magazine for women), and Stand Firm (devotional magazine for men), according to Gary Hauk, manager of the department that produces the monthly periodicals.

The magazine department began about a year ago customizing HomeLife's TODAY for churches, Hauk said, explaining TODAY is a takeoff of the popular and long-standing magazine, HomeLife, but is more geared to non-churched families.

"HomeLife celebrates the family. HomeLife's TODAY is similar, but it really goes after the lost person. It has a stronger evangelism message."

The project with HomeLife's TODAY became so successful, Hauk said, that the remaining magazines produced by the magazine department were added to the list of those that could be customized.

"We began customizing magazines in the first place so churches could respond to the community with their own personal messages that would help them in their ministry," he said.

"Churches have the option of customizing the magazines with an informative, four-page insert that carries a personal message."

Hauk, who said currently

about 45 churches are customizing magazines, indicated they can be personalized with the church's mission and vision, schedule of activities, special classes, important phone numbers, location and directions to the church.

Braelinn's Odom said when he saw information about customization of the magazines, he wanted to try it but feared it would be too expensive for the large numbers he would need to saturate his community in suburban Atlanta.

"I wanted to do a mass mailout and touch everybody in the community — hit them with the same piece," Odom said, "but the people at the Sunday School Board suggested I not mail the same piece to everybody, and just to target the demographic types of people who are already attending our church."

Odom said Braelinn has mailed out about 2,000 HomeLife's TODAY to people who are ages 25-45.

Next, he is going to mail out 2,000 ParentLife to parents of

preschoolers, and finally the church will send out 2,000 Living with Teenagers to parents of adolescents.

All in all, the church is planning to direct mail or give out about 10,000 magazines.

"We want to improve the quality of life of the families in our community with these magazines," Odom said.

"We just tell them there are no strings attached. Even if they never come by, they can just keep them."

"What happens is — over the long term — those are the kind of families that, if something causes them to turn outside themselves, they'll say, 'Let's go check out that church.'

Information about magazine customization and copies of a brochure, "101 Ideas to Improve Your Magazine Ministry," can be obtained by calling Kathy Sharp, customization specialist, at (615) 251-2849 or sending her an electronic message at kcsharp@bssb.com.

Jesus Christ  
Requests the Honor  
of Your Presence  
in Heaven!

## YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Pastor survey uncovers rationale for magazines

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Using magazines as an outreach tool in the community and as a ministry for the congregation is a long-standing tradition of many churches. Additionally, the idea of personalizing pages in certain magazines for individual churches is quickly catching on as a way to provide more intimate messages, said Gary Hauk, manager of the Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development magazine department, which produces seven popular periodicals that can be used for that purpose.

Fred Lodge, pastor of Una Church, Antioch, Tenn., said he hopes to promote Una as a spiritual home for families in the community by giving away magazines that bear a personal message from him and his church.

"Home is a very important part of my life because I didn't come from a Christian home," Lodge said. "The church is the one who helped disciple me and encourage me, and my goal is for our church to be that kind of home."

Consequently, Lodge has chosen to give the 1,000 customized HomeLife's TODAY he ordered to his community (during Tuesday night visitation) and to his church members.

"I want our members to use it, read it, and give it away," he said of the magazine, which is a takeoff of the popular and long-standing periodical, HomeLife, but more geared to non-churched families.

Hauk said the customization process is being used on a small scale like Una is doing (1,000 is the minimum order) and on a giant scale — like a joint project between the Sunday School Board and the North American Mission Board.

The two agencies are planning to customize HomeLife's TODAY with a message to Mormons and mail the periodicals directly into 140,000 homes in the Salt Lake City area just before the June 9-11 Southern Baptist Convention.

"We're splitting the cost of this effort, and the purpose is to share the good news with folks who live in Salt Lake City," Hauk said.

Hauk said the Sunday School Board informally polled pastors on their uses of Christian magazines. The following is a list of reasons pastors gave for using periodicals in their church ministry. Magazines, they say:

- ◆ bring Christian teachings into the home.
- ◆ offer informal reading apart from organized church activities.
- ◆ offer spiritually essential reading for the home.
- ◆ apply spiritual teachings to daily living.
- ◆ are handy and within reach to all members.
- ◆ affect people's lives directly through spiritual & practical articles.
- ◆ are one of the most effective tools for outreach to unchurched.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

I'm obsessed with staying slim to the point that I binge and purge. I'm a strong Christian who has prayed many times about this problem. What else can I do?

Minirth and Meier in their book, Love Hunger, describe your situation as a cycle that begins with a real soul hunger for love. Just as your stomach cries out in hunger for food, your heart cries out in hunger for the love of others.

People try to satisfy their love hunger in many ways, including sex, drugs, working, gambling, and in your case food. Immediately after a person attempts to satisfy a love hunger in one or more of these inappropriate ways, there is guilt. In your case you feel guilty and ashamed over gaining weight, which leads to the desperate purging. Then, the cycle begins again with binging.

Break this behavior by first admitting that you have a problem and going to the Lord in prayer (which you have apparently done). The Bible teaches that God's love for each of us is infinite (John 3:16), so much so that he chooses to dwell in us (1 Cor. 6:19).

Nothing on earth will satisfy your love hunger as completely as the love of God through Jesus Christ. Your pastor or a Christian coun-

selor can help you understand that fact. Also, ask your best friend to provide accountability and encouragement when you are about to fail.

Lastly, identify the situations that make you feel weakest and find other ways to occupy yourself. You are a prized child of the King. Rejoice!

I am so far outside God's will, and he is so patient. How can I get back to where I know I should be?

You likely moved away from God one step at a time, and one step at a time is the way back. Don't be overwhelmed by the distance of your journey; when we turn to the Savior he will always meet us on the road.

Be in prayer and focus on where you know you should be. Map out a plan. Keep up with the markers along the way that will identify how far you have come. You may still take detours you shouldn't, but concentrate on your eternal and internal goals and you can always find your way back to the right road.

That right road will be a lot less difficult if you have a traveling companion, so ask a Christian friend to help you along the way. Never forget the Lord will always be on the trip with you, too.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Service and devotion

Luke 10:30-42

By Harold W. Simmons

The center of gravity is a constant concern for crews of airplanes. They need to know if the aircraft is properly balanced before attempting a take-off. If the plane is not balanced at the right place, it could crash on take-off. I believe that Jesus wanted us to seek a balance in our life between worship and ministry.

**Passing by on the other side** (10: 30-32). Jesus did not tell us if the injured man was a Jew or Gentile. He did not give a name for the priest or the Levite. The information must not be what we need to know. We are not told why the first two men did

not render assistance to the person who was obviously injured. We are only told that two religious leaders "saw" the person — that is they were fully cognizant of the injured man — and did absolutely nothing to alleviate his suffering.

I believe Jesus pointed out that those who should be mindful of suffering of others very often are the ones who display the most calloused attitude to the suffering of others. It was plain enough for anyone to understand a need existed and the people one would expect to help did nothing.

**Love in action** (10: 33-37). I



Simmons

am sure there were some raised eyebrows when Jesus announced the national origin of the man who gave aid to the injured person. Jesus pointed out the help came from the most unexpected quarter. The Samaritan evidently was not a member of the local community but a person passing through who had nothing to gain.

In fact, Jesus made sure we know the man used his own bandages, oil, wine, mode of transportation, energy, and money to minister to a person in need. He demonstrated that he was a person who really cared. The Samaritan exhibited love in action.

**Love in action can produce anxieties** (10: 38-40). The Holy Spirit directed Luke to write about doing the right thing and, then, he directed Luke to

record the next immediate episode in the life of Jesus as the visit with his friends.

In Bethany, Martha demonstrates love in action as she rushes around in the kitchen with preparations to feed Jesus and his disciples. She wants to show her love by tending their every need.

Martha quickly became carried away to the point of distraction. She could not stay focused on any one task and found herself getting more behind and anxious. In her rushing around to do good, she was so busy that she was missing something very important — fellowship with her guest of honor.

**Focus on priorities** (10: 42). Jesus went directly to the heart of Martha's problem. It appears to me that he said to Martha, "we only need one dish of food like you would normally prepare for your meal everyday.

Come sit down like Mary and enjoy the fellowship."

Enjoying the presence of the Lord is worship. John MacArthur Jr., wrote a book on worship that he entitled "The Ultimate Priority." Martha needed to focus on doing the best (the ultimate), not just the good. She needed to focus on the worship opportunity while Jesus was near.

Jesus speaks to us. We need to be attuned to opportunities for ministry which abound in our communities.

Talking about love does not satisfy needs; it takes action to demonstrate love. Acting out love (doing good) should not overshadow or replace our worship and adoration of the Lord. We should not spend so much time in worship that we have no time for ministry. Balance is necessary.

*Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.*

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Dealing with critics

Mark 2:1-3:7

By Grace Graham

People often hesitate to take a position that others might criticize. Jesus announced the forgiveness of a man's sins, knowing that the scribes would criticize him for doing so. He went to Capernaum and was talking to a large crowd in a small house. It was packed!

Four men very determined to bring a paralyzed man to Jesus' attention. They could not go through the door. The only way to go was up. Houses of that day had outside stairways leading to a flat mud and matted roof. It would not have been difficult to tear open the roof or to repair it. The men broke through and lowered the

man into the room.

**Healing and forgiveness in the gospels** specifically related to faith. The Rabbis taught that only God could forgive and that God would forgive any man who repented. When Jesus stated "Your sins are forgiven," the scribes and pharisees took offense. How dare he claim the power of God? Blasphemy!

Scribes were people trained in writing who further recorded history. Many Old Testament scribes became experts in God's word. In New Testament times some became Pharisees. They interpreted the law and were experts in cases where people were accused of



Graham

breaking the law of Moses.

Yes, he knew he would be criticized but he did not hesitate to speak. Will you say or do what is right regardless of a critics' reaction?

**Countering critics** (2:8-12). The disapproval was unspoken but Jesus knew that they objected. Jesus, the great teacher, asked the rhetorical question, which is easier, to tell a man that he is forgiven or to heal him?

Previously Jesus was unwilling to give signs as to who he was. Here, the man's recovery is proof of Jesus' authority to forgive sins. Jesus begins to use the title "Son of Man" to speak of himself. The writer, Mark, recognized this as a messianic title given in Daniel 7:13. The work of Jesus proved effective. God's son could bring strength out of

weakness. The impossible became possible and a paralyzed man walked home carrying his bed. The crowd reacted by praising God.

Jesus' response to unjust criticism can help us to prove by our actions that our critics' attacks have no valid basis.

**Confronting critics** (3:1-5). People usually try to avoid unpleasant confrontation. Jesus confronted and rebuked the people who were ready to accuse him of violating the law.

Jesus was in the synagogue when he saw a man with a withered hand. The religious leaders kept a very close eye on him to see if he would break the law by healing on the Sabbath. Isn't it interesting that they were so dedicated to catching Jesus doing something against the law that they didn't even notice the man's need? Healing on the Sabbath was specifically forbidden, but Jesus called the man to him.

He asked the pharisees a question that could not be answered without leaving their own theological position. "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath?" His critics did not respond. Jesus noticed the hardness of the hearts in that room and grieved.

"Hardness of heart" refers to a stubborn resistance to the will of God.

Jesus commanded the man to stretch out his hand. His obedience resulted in immediate and complete healing!

Jesus took a stand and confronted his critics. He was angry but grieved their spiritual conditions as well. As you strive to be more like Jesus, you may find yourself choosing to do right. Remember to grieve the hard heart by which you're confronted. Will you pray for your critics as you do God's will?

*Graham is Childhood Education director at First Church, Gulfport.*

## LIFE AND WORK

### The sinful woman: Freed from the burden of guilt

Luke 7:36-50

By Jim Burnett

Someone has wisely said: "The burden of guilt is a heavy burden." We have all suffered the consequences of bad decisions and poor judgments. But for some, getting over past failure is not an easy task. In fact, even those who have been saved for years sometimes are haunted by ghosts of the past.

The lesson today reminds us of a very important truth: Jesus forgives our sins of the past the moment we trust him as Lord and Savior. Such was the experience of the woman in the focal passages.

**See yourself as Jesus sees you** (7:36-39). A stark contrast exists in this story between what the Pharisee sees in this woman and what Jesus sees in her. To the pious Jew, standing before him was a throw-back, a social outcast, and an unsavable human being. However, in the eyes of Christ, stood a dear, precious, valuable person for whom he would soon shed his blood and die on a cross.

We should never accept our identity from the opinions of others or let the burden of guilt produced from yesterday's



Burnett

confessed sin rob us of a bright future in Christ. Rather, we must realize the blood of Jesus pardons us from all transgressions and the guilt that accompanies that transgression.

**Realize Jesus has canceled your debt** (7:40-43). In our world where retaliation and pay-back are expected practices, Jesus' promise to cancel our sins is like a breath of fresh air. But to the Pharisee the generosity of Christ toward this woman of ill-repute was puzzling.

Today people continue to struggle with God's grace and wonder how he could forgive the foulest of sinners. Whether we understand it or not, the truth is God's grace can erase the burden of guilt of past sin and set us free no matter who we are or what we have done.

**Express your love for Jesus** (7:44-47). Using a parable of two forgiven debtors, Jesus contrasted Simon's behavior with that of the woman's.

Obviously, this lady had been deeply touched by the love of Christ. Out of the joy of her regeneration, she kissed the feet of Jesus, shed tears over them, and wiped them with her hair. The Pharisee's reaction to Christ's love and forgiveness indicated ingratitude. Christians should praise God daily for his grace and mercy shown to them through the cross of Christ.

**Let go of the past** (7:48-49). Jesus assured the woman her sins had been forgiven. But it was not the perfume of his feet that earned God's forgiveness. On the contrary, she was pardoned at the time of her conversion.

This is the experience of all believers. Thus, our forgive-

ness is not earned and cannot be lost. It's not the wrongs of the past we should give our attention to today but our right relationship with Jesus. Let go of the past and embrace today. Milk life for all it's worth and know as you do, God loves you and has pardoned your sin.

**Live in peace** (7:50). Jesus' departing words to the woman in the story were, "your faith has saved you; go in peace."

So many today are molested in their minds with feelings of fear, anger, and confusion. Millions of Americans suffer from depression. People need to hear Jesus' words to this woman, and by faith they can.

The moment a person receives Christ as lord and savior he or she becomes the recipient of a heavenly peace that surpasses comprehension.

*Burnett is pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.*

# Russian has 'Damascus Road' experience

By Trennis Henderson  
Arkansas Baptist

BENTON, Ark. (BP) — During the former Soviet Union's war with Afghanistan, Soviet Gen. Vycheslav Borisov was the deputy chief commander of his nation's 100,000 combat troops.



Borisov

Given the code name, "General War," he was a feared communist military leader — but that was before Borisov met God.

During the war, Borisov's helicopter was shot down. As the helicopter plummeted toward the ground below, "I realized clearly that death was inevitable.

"I was desperately seeking for a way out, some kind of rescue," he recounted.

Noting he "went through thousands of different variants of a rescue," Borisov added, "My whole life played back in my mind."

As he remembered five of his fellow generals who had died in similar circumstances, he also recalled about 20 of his soldiers who had been members of underground churches.

Although KGB agents had been assigned "to eradicate

faith and belief in God from those soldiers' hearts and minds," he said, "the work of those agents did not bring any results — it was futile."

Reflecting on times he had told the soldiers, "You're misled; there's no God," Borisov said they responded, "Mr. General, we're not misled; you are. Only the Lord God loves us enough; only he is powerful enough to help us."

Seconds away from apparent death, Borisov cried out to God.

As the lone survivor of the helicopter crash, the Russian general noted, "An interesting thought penetrated my mind, 'The Lord God is there and everyone who calls on his name will be saved.'"

Following his life-saving and life-changing experience, Borisov spent several months in the hospital "balancing between life and death."

That was more than 13 years ago. Today, still an active Russian general, Borisov spends his leave time traveling throughout the United States to share his testimony.

During a recent visit to First Church, Benton, Ark., the Russian general was introduced by Arkansas Baptist State Convention President Greg Kirksey, who noted Borisov's conversion experience is "very much like a Damascus Road experience."

"You can see the glory on his face as he shares Christ's love," Kirksey said.

Although the general

remains "a leader among men," he also is now "a foot soldier in the army of Christ," Kirksey pointed out.

"I'm happy because I came to know God's love," Borisov declared.

Prior to his conversion, "I did not know how to pray. I had never been in a church. I had never held the Bible in my hands before."

"I did not believe in God. I was oppressing and persecuting Christians," he acknowledged.

"I cried out to God and he rescued me and gave me a second birth. I asked him to restore my health and he did that also."

Affirming the end of the Cold War and the increased opportunity for interaction between the United States and Russia, Borisov remarked, "Could you imagine a Soviet general would come to your church and be sharing about Christ's love?"

"When the love of God unites us ... no enemy can separate us. Every day and every minute of our life confirms his love."

Although the United States "has a lot of problems," Borisov insisted "Russia faces 100 times as many problems."

"Eighty years ago, our country was forced to turn away from God. We were deceived, brainwashed into believing a paradise could be made on earth without God's presence. What a lie! There is no heaven without God."

Emphasizing "a person cannot live life in its fullest if he does not have purpose in life," the general said, "Only with faith in God can a nation flourish. Russia needs this spiritual rejuvenation... Russia needs God's love."

Noting Russian Christians "keep praying to God that he will keep blessing in your country," Borisov added, "The only thing they don't believe is that American schools don't have a Bible study curriculum."

"Your country was founded on God's principles. It's hard to believe such a wonderful country could deprive children from studying the Bible in school."

One of Borisov's primary ministry projects is seeking to supply Bibles for all 2.5 million soldiers in the Russian army.

Highlighting the importance of the Bible in the daily life of Christians, he declared, "I am equipped with a weapon, the most powerful weapon on the face of the earth — the Bible, the Word of God."

"This is the weapon strong enough to overcome any enemy. It does not become obsolete. We need it like we need sun, air and water."

Contrasting his former life to his current experience, Borisov asked: "Should I trust Marx and Lenin who nearly killed me or the Lord God who restored me to life?"

"The happy moments in my life are when I share my testimony."

## Christians losing societal influence, Barna says

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1998

FCPF US FCAX GCPDF

HARSOOG IUFC FCB

KAXFC FCO DATE

VOGXG, PRE GCPDF

WODUOJO UR FCURO

COPTF FCPF MAE CPFC

TPUGOE CUK STAK FCO

EOPE, FCAX GCPDF WO

GPJOE.

TAKPRG FOR: RURO

Clue: X = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three Sixteen.

OXNARD, Calif. (ABP) — Christians in America can talk the talk, but not enough of them are walking the walk to have an impact on society, according to Christian researcher George Barna.

"Our research for close to two decades has shown that Christians have had an alarming lack of impact on the national culture as a direct outgrowth of their faith," Barna wrote in a recent issue of his bimonthly newsletter, *The Barna Report*.

"The Christian faith appears to have a minimal influence on the thoughts, words and deeds of people under the age of 40 — a trend with foreboding implications for the future," Barna wrote.

Most significant differences between Christians and non-Christians occurred in the area of religious behavior such as prayer, giving money to a church or volunteering for a church ministry.

"Non-Christians expect Christians to differ in the religious realm," Barna wrote. "There are few instances of visible differences outside of the religious domain."

The one visible difference between Christians and others

related to non-religious behavior: Christians were half as likely to have drunk an alcoholic beverage in the past month.

"The bottom line is that in the dimensions of life where Christians can truly influence their world ... we have failed to demonstrate the power of our faith," Barna wrote.

"Christianity is not losing influence in America because it is overmatched by the challenges of the day; it is losing

impact because believers have been unsuccessful at merging faith and lifestyle outside the walls of the church."

Christians are losing their impact, Barna stated, despite data indicating Christianity should be on the rise:

- More than two-thirds of adults say they want a significant personal relationship with God.

- Most Americans (84%) consider themselves Christians.

Despite those numbers,

Americans are likely to state that Christianity is losing its influence, that they have no Christian role models, and that the Christian faith teaches the same principles as other major faiths.

"No one can deny that millions of Christians are doing their best at living in ways that honor Christ," Barna wrote, "but it also appears that not enough of us are mastering the art of living Christianly and thus being agents of transformation."

## Disney request ignites storm of controversy

STOCKTON, Mo. (BP) — It was a routine request that turned into a media circus.

A high school band director submitted a request to the school board for the band to march in a parade at Disney World in 1999.

In a Feb. 18 school board meeting, the band director withdrew that request after the school board refused to vote on it that night.

That board meeting — which drew anti-homosexual picketers from Kansas and a deluge of media from around the state — capped off four months of controversy.

"The reason why we opposed the trip had to do with the gay-friendly policies of Disney and the questionable films put out by their subsidiaries," said school superintendent Ken



Spurgeon, a member of First Southern Baptist Church in Stockton.

"That's not reflective of what we want our kids to be around," he said.

Some Stockton residents, though, did not see it that way.

"They have no right to tell us, as parents, where our kids can go," Jana Hendricks told the Springfield News-Leader newspaper.

The school board's authority is what First Southern pastor Ron Gross said he and other church members supported.

"We did not look on this decision as a religious issue," Spurgeon said.

The band director now has submitted a request for another destination, reportedly San Antonio, for a band trip.